UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1997/L.84
10 April 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Egypt (on behalf of the African Group): draft resolution

1997/... Assistance to Equatorial Guinea in the field of human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 1996/66 of 23 April 1996,

Guided by the principles embodies in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Reaffirming that all States have the obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Bearing in mind that since the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its decision 1993/277 of 28 July 1993 and the appointment of Mr. Alejandro Artucio as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights,

the Government of Equatorial Guinea has received the advisory services of the Special Rapporteur and the Centre for Human Rights, and the Special Rapporteur has observed progress in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as indicated in his reports (E/CN.4/1996/67 and E/CN.4/1997/54),

Takes note of the observation of the Special Rapporteur contained in his latest report that the Government of Equatorial Guinea is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and his observations that there is political will on the part of the authorities and that efforts made in this regard have led to progress in the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Conscious that some progress has been made in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Equatorial Guinea,

Encouraging the Government, the political parties and governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting with satisfaction that in January 1997 the Government and the political parties of the opposition resumed political dialogue to revise the National Pact concluded in 1993,

1. Welcomes the atmosphere of understanding, assistance and cordiality which the authorities of Equatorial Guinea have provided for the Special Rapporteur during his visits, particularly that of December 1996;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the Governments efforts in welcoming the provision of advisory services and technical assistance, which have led to some progress in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Equatorial Guinea;

3. Notes with interest that the continuing process of democratization in Equatorial Guinea has led the Government and the political parties of the opposition to resume their political dialogue in order to revise the National Pact concluded in 1993;

4. Invites the Government, in anticipation of the elections for the entire House of Representatives of the People, to take all the necessary measures to guarantee transparency and respect for the electoral law in force in Equatorial Guinea in order to facilitate the free participation of all political parties in the electoral process;

5. Also invites the Government to continue the reform of the electoral legislation in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations electoral adviser and those of the Special Rapporteur contained in his report;

6. Encourages the Government to continue its actions aimed at promoting the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;

7. Welcomes the improvement in the conditions of prisoners and detainees introduced by the authorities, and requests that these efforts continue in accordance with the Special Rapporteur's recommendations;

8. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to open a technical cooperation office for strengthening the national capacities of Equatorial Guinea in the field of human rights;

9. Requests the Centre for Human Rights to develop a technical cooperation project in partnership with the Government of Equatorial Guinea and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations bodies and agencies;

10. Decides to examine this question at its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Advisory services in the field of human rights".